

flourishing town, 20 miles from Mercara, on the Cannanore high-road and four miles from its junction at Perambádi with the Mysore road. It is a place of some importance on account of its coffee, rice and cardamom traffic with the Western Coast. The population amounts to 3024 souls, of whom 1,255 are Mussulmans, 1296 Hindus, 156 Jains and 313 Roman Catholic Christians, who settled here as fugitives from Tippu Sultan's conquered dominions. The town was established in 1792 by Dodda-Virájender in commemoration of a meeting that took place between himself and General Abercromby during the first campaign against Mysore in 1791. 632
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The town proved very unhealthy, but since the rigorous introduction of sanitary measures by Lieut. Mackenzie, generously supported by a Native Municipal Board, the health of the people has greatly improved. Virájpét is prettily situated at the foot of the Maletambira hill on the top of which there is a large square-built temple. The town may be divided into the Roman Catholic quarter, the main bazaar and the Mussulman streets. Every Wednesday there is market, which attracts a great concourse of Coorgs. The merchandise is similar to that at Mercara. Of public buildings the most attractive is the renovated *Roman Catholic Church*, which Father Guillon reconstructed in simple gothic style and with a copper roof. The inside is gaudily ornamented with paintings and statues in stucco, his handywork, greatly to the taste and admiration of the natives. The *New Offices* of the Assistant Superintendent, the Taluq and Ná-d-Subadar's Kacheri behind the Traveller's Bangalow and above the town, promise to be an imposing and convenient structure, when completed. The *Traveller's Bangalow* surrounded by a high wall, is well situated on a knoll, which forms the highest point of the town. It was built of the material and on the site of the Rájah's palace, but without much regard to the convenience of European visitors who frequent the place. The [175]
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- 632 Government *English School* is a temporary building near the
 ● 368 Bangalow and a more commodious and substantial School-
 632 house should be erected. Of the four *tanks* belonging to the
 312 town, Gauri-kere contains the purest water. It is at the
 [789] head of the Petta and was excavated by the orders of Dodda-
 [783] Virájender, the founder of Virájpet. At the expense of Pál-
 pare Rudaya it was repaired some years ago, but people being
 allowed to wash and bathe in the tank, the wholesomeness of
 the water must be greatly impaired, and Gauri-idol² which is
 annually thrown into it at the Gauri-feast will not restore
 its purity! Good drinking water, but in a small quantity, is
 obtained from an enclosed spring at the foot of the Bangalow
 632 hill, close to the paddy fields. The site of Virájpet being very
 245 rocky, the industry of the people in economising every foot
 of cultivable land is very remarkable, but the destruction of so
 many coffee and orange trees by the Borer has considerably
 marred the once luxuriant vegetation in and around Virájpet.
 In the principal street there are a few straggling cocoanut
 trees, but the climate is not congenial to a fertile growth.
- 635 Communication with the eastern portion of the taluq and
 491 with Mysore is maintained by two bandy roads, one through
 Cólepet, Anandapur and Siddápur, the other towards Bittan-
 gala and Hattár.
- Kiggatnád-taluq* extends with its four Náds over the
 635 whole of south-eastern Coorg and covers an area of 400 square
 [634] miles with 63 villages and the rising town Ponappet. The
 [131] taluq contains 17,650 inhabitants, of whom 5,480 are Coorgs,
 [162] 5,709 other Hindus and 5,818 Jungle people, such as
 [563] Kurubas and Yeravas; of the rest 417 are Mussulmans and
 223 Amma-Codagaa. Upon the whole the people of this
 taluq may be said to be in easy circumstances, as they are
 well provided with the necessaries of life. With the excep-
 [556] tion of the large and influential house of the late Deván
 Cbeputira Ponnappa but little disparity in point of wealth.
- ² [Errata: This should read "and the
 Gauri-idol" see corrigenda, Cat. II, G,
 p. 474-- Analyst]

632 of the former fort. It was a happy thought to select this
[485] spot for a travellers' bungalow, where after a weary journey over the monotonous Mysore-roads the traveller is placed in the midst of a charming scenery, a worthy introduction into Coorg!

[132] From the position of Fraserpet its climate is hotter than that of Mercara, but during the monsoon it is extremely pleasant, as very little rain falls there and the heat of the sun is moderated by constant clouds and light fogs. The nights are cool and pleasant, nor is the sun ever very oppressive at any season, except for an hour or two at midday; after the monsoon, however, and especially after considerable inundations by the Kávéri, the place becomes feverish and is not inhabited by Europeans.

The town was named "Fraserpet" in honor of General
[162] Fraser, the first Commissioner of Coorg. It contains now
[361] 326 houses, mostly tiled, and a population of 1,213 souls, of whom 360 are Christians, 388 Mussulmans and 465 Hindus.

● [368] The town can boast of a Roman Catholic Church, a newly built shrine, dedicated to Ganapati, with a very useful public well in front of it, an Anglo-Vernacular School, a native rest-house with a tank and a Government wood-yard, besides the
[795] European bungalows. The Roman Catholics are mostly native or East Indian pensioned soldiers and their families, a detachment of Sappers and Minors having been stationed there when employed in making the great road to Mercara and the bridge over the Kávéri.

[131] *Somanádrpet* in Yedavanád is 26½ miles to the north of Mercara and of the same elevation. It lies on the highroad
[362] to Manjerabad, but there is nothing remarkable connected
[162] with the Petta. Of its 197 houses 19 are tiled and 178
[241] thatched. Of the 953 inhabitants 862 are Hindus and 91
[437] Mussulmans. There are but few cultivators, most of them live on trade in various articles. Though fully alive to their